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Transportation Division

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TRANSPORTATION DIVISION

The Transportation Division promotes the exchange of knowledge and information in transportation, both in general or in one of its many subdivisions including air, highway, rail, and water transport, and multimodal transportation.

FROM THE CHAIR

MARY ELLEN TUCKER

Change is in the wind! Do you know which way it's blowing?

During the 2002 SLA Winter Meeting in Chicago, the Association's Bylaws Task Force presented major proposed changes to association bylaws. Why do you need to concern yourself with bylaws changes? To begin with, you are a dues-paying member of the association. If you are reading this letter, you are interested in the work of SLA's



Transportation Division. The proposed changes would greatly change the governance of the association, the structure of the annual conference, and the relationships among directors, divisions, and chapters. Additionally, new guidelines have been proposed to implement governance changes, and in some cases replace bylaws.

At the Annual Conference in June, proposed bylaws changes will be on the agendas of the Association's annual business meeting and the Transportation Division business meeting. Our Division's Executive Board members need to hear your views. Please review the proposals and have your thoughts ready.

There has been much discussion of these proposed changes, and the dialogue continues. In late March, the current Board of Directors met and worked on further revisions. At the time of writing this letter (March 28, 2002), the revisions had not yet been released. The proposed bylaws changes described in

this letter reflect proposals made at January's meeting. Revisions were due to be posted at an SLA Web site on April 5. I urge you to check articles on bylaws changes that appear in SLA chapter publications, from other division leaders in *Sci-Tech News*, and in the publications of other SLA divisions.

For your interest, I have prepared a brief summary of some of the more controversial proposed bylaws changes presented at January's meeting. Following my letter, you will find links to two SLA Web sites that contain more information, including a timetable for presentation to association members for their consideration of the proposed changes, and a vote by membership.

Highlights of Proposed SLA Bylaws Changes

Board of Directors—Under proposed bylaws changes, the Association's Board of Directors would acquire many new powers. The Board's size would be reduced from fourteen to a minimum of six members. The Board would have the power to elect Association officers, including the president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer. *Membership would no longer directly elect officers.* Composition of the Board, terms of office, and qualifications would also be determined by the board. Chapter and Division cabinet leaders would be replaced by liaisons appointed by the Board, although chapter and division cabinets would elect their own chairpersons.

Membership—Current membership categories would no longer be a part of the bylaws; instead, they would become a part of the guidelines. The Board would determine requirements for membership. Proposed guidelines list the following membership types: member, student member, sustaining member, honorary member, and virtual member. Virtual member-

ship would provide some membership services to people who live and work outside North America. This type of membership would give access to electronic publications and the "Members Only" Web site. Virtual members would not be able to hold office or belong to chapters or divisions.

Dues—The proposed bylaws would give the Board authority to set the amount of membership dues, with no provisions for membership to influence decision making on this matter. At the time of writing, no proposed dues cost information was available from the current draft of the guidelines.

Voting (including proxies, quorums, and majorities)—Currently, approval by two-thirds of voting membership is required for action by ballot. Proposed bylaws changes would alter this standard to a simple majority. A majority of voting members would be able to amend, alter, or repeal bylaws. Current law in New York State (where SLA is incorporated) requires a paper ballot. Proposed bylaws would permit voting by means that conform to New York statutes. This is proposed to facilitate any changes to electronic voting that might come in the future. Voting by proxy would permit association members who do not at-

tend annual conferences the ability to vote by written ballot or authorized representative.

Here are some questions for discussion:

—Would it be healthy for SLA and its members if the board of directors acquires greatly expanded powers?

—How can Association bylaws be amended to allow for more efficient operation, and for the conduct of some association business (including voting) to be facilitated by virtual technology?

—SLA's rich diversity comes from the subject focus of its divisions. How can we preserve and nurture this unique feature of our organization?

—How do we work to move SLA successfully into the future, while divisions, chapters, and the members who make them up retain our voice in its direction?

In closing, this will be my last letter to you as Division Chair. I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has given me good advice and support during the past year. Your guidance and direction have enabled me to conduct the business of our Division and successfully plan our conference programs. It has been a pleasure to work with my old friends and colleagues and make new friends along the way.

Regards,
Mary Ellen Tucker

SLA Bylaws Web Sites

For more information and recent updates about SLA proposed bylaws changes, go to these SLA Web sites.

Proposed Bylaws Changes—Use this site as is a centralized location to review and comment on SLA's proposed bylaws changes. Also at this site are reports of strategic task forces, including the Bylaws Task Force. <http://www.sla.org/content/SLA/Structure/recbylaws/httpwww6596.cfm>

BOARD.COMmunicate—This is a new SLA electronic newsletter that describes the actions of the Board of Directors. Issue 3 has a timeline for bylaws proposals and other interesting content. http://www.sla.org/content/SLA/Structure/board-index/boardcom/boardcom_02_3.cfm

CLARA SMITH

Clara Smith, the U.S. Department of Transportation Library director, died April 4, 2002. U.S. DOT library and information community members attended a joyous and spirited three-hour celebration of Clara's life and legacy at the Tenth Street Baptist Church in Washington on April 9. In 1995, having decided to address the spiritual side of her life, she apparently set out to walk to a church whose spire she could see from her house. Pausing at the intersection, she decided her feet hurt too much to walk any further and chose the church at that intersection. There she found not only her spiritual home, but roles as teacher, prison-ministry activist, choir member, budget committee member, and more. Others spoke of her dedication to duty, her gutsy laugh, and her warmth and energy and capacity for accomplishment.

Most of us knew Clara only after her arrival at the DOT Library, and it was only recently that we learned of her rich and varied educational and work history. When she was interviewed for an article about the **DOT Library for the *SLA Transportation Bulletin*** (Spring 2001), she laughingly said she was a bit of a late bloomer career-wise, as she kept getting interested in new subjects and going back to school to get another degree.

Born in Flint, Michigan, Clara attended North Western High School, and received her M.L.S. from the University of Michigan and her J.D. from the University of Toledo. She worked in the Toledo-Lucas County Public Library System before coming to Washington, D.C., to work in Howard University's law library. Prior to coming to DOT as the law librarian in 1992, she worked for the U.S. Department of Energy under contract as a law and reference librarian. In 1997 she was tapped to be head of public services for the TASC Library, and in 1999 was designated director of the newly restructured DOT headquarters libraries (the departmental and law libraries in the Nassif Building, the Federal Aviation Administration library, and the U.S. Coast Guard Library).

Clara was a visible and dynamic director, internally and externally. Under her leadership, the library thrived and reached out to the DOT and transportation communities. She empowered her staff; valued training, networking, and collaborative ventures; and extended the library's networked environment throughout the DOT. She was working actively with the National Transportation Library on its plans for a union catalog, with the DOT libraries and information centers as a major unit.

She was an active member of the Transportation Division of the Special Libraries Association and numerous other national and local library organizations. As a member of the Transportation Research Board's Library and Information Science in Transportation (LIST), Clara chaired a subcommittee charged with developing LIST's research, publishing, and peer-reviewed paper activities.

Clara's legacies will live on in the colleagues she has inspired and the work she initiated. At the time this goes to press, there is no information about the family's wishes for memorial contributions. We recommend contacting the DOT Library for additional information.

- Janice Bain-Kerr, Netalyst, Inc.

MEET TD CHAIR ELECT - SHAUN MORAN

Shaun has been involved with libraries her whole career. Upon graduation from Carleton University in Ottawa, the beautiful capital of Canada, she found work in the Earth Physics Branch Library of Natural Resources Canada. In 1997 she started with the Transport Canada Library. Over the years she worked in acquisitions, reference, and collection development and ultimately became manager of the Business Centre, Information and Research Services, which included Library Services, General Enquiries, and Photocopier Management.

Prior to the establishment of the Business Centre, she was the library's team leader. Most of the staff were relocated and retrained and participated in making the collection 20 percent smaller. During this time there was an increased demand for accountability, including a focus on customers, performance measurement, benchmarking, and continuous improvement—all taking place in an era when the financial resources available for providing library and information services were shrinking. At the same time, there was a transition from paper to electronic media as the dominant form of information storage and retrieval.

One of Shaun's particular strengths is her ability to reach outside the library as a consultant on information issues such as copyright and electronic publishing standards. She currently chairs a subcommittee on publications that reports to the Publications Advisory Board and was the co-chair of the Working Group on Digitization, which recently spun off to become a Standards Advisory Committee. Recently, the library became a focal point for career and continuous learning with a special collection and training room. Shaun hopes to be a resource and support for diversity in Transport Canada.

With her knowledge of print and electronic information resources in the transportation area and experience with design and management of information services, Shaun is the project manager for two government online projects. She has received funding to build a virtual library, including a CD-ROM networking solution and a transportation thesaurus for use in Transport Canada's Web pages and publications.

JUDY GUTSHALL MEMORIALS

By Cheryl Bodan, Pennsylvania Dept. of Transportation

Judy Gutshall, the librarian for the Pennsylvania Dept. of Transportation and long time member of SLA and the Transportation Division, passed away earlier this year. PennDOT is starting a scholarship fund for the small high school in Judy's hometown (Millersburg Area High School) to be given as a one-time gift this year (if possible) to a student or students planning to study Library Science, Education, or Engineering. Judy's son, Jason, has approved the scholarship idea and is interested in presenting the gift to the student(s).

Contributions have also been made in her memory to the public library, Johnson Memorial Library. Donations received by the public library have allowed it to purchase a high capacity CD rotation tower (floor model), a plaque to identify it, and possibly purchase a few CDs as well.

PATH DATABASE REACHES MILESTONE RECORD

By Seyem Petrites, University of California, Berkeley

The California PATH Database has recently reached yet another milestone with the entry of its 25,000th fully-abstracted record into the Database. The event was celebrated at UC Berkeley's Harmer E. Davis Transportation Library. In attendance were PATH Database Manager Seyem Petrites and Database Librarian Michael Kleiber, as well as PATH and Institute of Transportation Studies managers, researchers and staff. On hand to push the symbolic "input" button were Nelda Bravo, Head of the National Transportation Library and Barbara Post, Manager of Information Services for the Transportation Research Board. The record chosen for this honor was an Internet report, entitled *Other Road-Side Detectors*, authored by PATH's

Dimitri Loukakos for the ITS Decision Database.

The PATH Database is the world's largest bibliographic database devoted to Intelligent Transportation Systems. Founded in 1988 by the Institute of Transportation Studies, the Database is maintained and managed by the Institute's Harmer E. Davis Transportation Library.



Barbara Post, Nelda Bravo, Seyem Petrites, Michael Kleiber and the 25,000th record in the PATH Database

Internet access to the database is provided through a partnership established in 1998 between the California PATH Program and the Transportation Research Board, with database funding provided by the California Dept. of

Transportation. The PATH Database can be reached at: <http://www4.nationalacademies.org/trb/tris.nsf/web/path>

MIDWESTERN TRANSPORTATION LIBRARY CONSORTIUM

By Julie Bolding, SDDOT/State Library

Transportation information now widely scattered in various state university and organization libraries would unite as one database within OCLC under a plan being discussed by Midwestern transportation librarians. The plan has a long way to go before the idea becomes a reality. Among topics discussed Dec. 5-6 at a Minneapolis meeting were costs, and formalizing the unwritten agreements now used when sharing items and expertise. Participants in this pilot project, limited to the Midwestern states, came from Iowa, Illinois, Missouri, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, South Dakota and Wisconsin.

A national library catalog that includes publications from all relevant U.S. transportation collections would make transportation research easier, faster, cheaper and more comprehensive. Not coincidentally, this is one of the goals of the Bureau of Transportation Statistics, National Transportation Library.

State DOTs have libraries of varying levels and vitality, or no transportation libraries at all. Still others, like Montana and South Dakota, are in the process of putting their in-house libraries online. At present, Northwestern University, University of California at Berkeley, the University of Texas at Austin and Minnesota's DOT library are among the most prominent collectors and lenders of transportation materials.

The national catalog would be a subset of OCLC's WorldCat, the largest bibliographic database in the world. The Bureau of Transportation Statistics is considering initially subsidizing OCLC fees for states that do not have their collections online yet.

For more information, monitor the new discussion list for the Midwestern Transportation Research Network at <http://knowledge.fhwa.dot.gov/cops/hcx.nsf/home>

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CISTI (Canadian Institute for Scientific and Technical Information, NRC) (www.nrc.ca/cisti)

— CISTI is a national information resource with a mandate to support researchers in the public and private sectors in Canada by ensuring rapid and complete access to global scientific information. CISTI's library collection is one the largest of its kind in North America. What is important about the collection is not its sheer size, but the fact that CISTI continues to subscribe to journals, which other libraries can no longer afford. Whether you need an article from a journal, an in-depth literature search, or a referral to an expert, CISTI can provide the information you need.

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